

A NEW SPIDER MITE FROM ARGENTINA

BY E. A. MCGREGOR, *Whittier, California*

A species of spinning mite has been intercepted by the port inspectors on shipments of pears from Argentina. This mite appears to be a species previously unknown, and its description follows:

Septanychus argentinus, new species

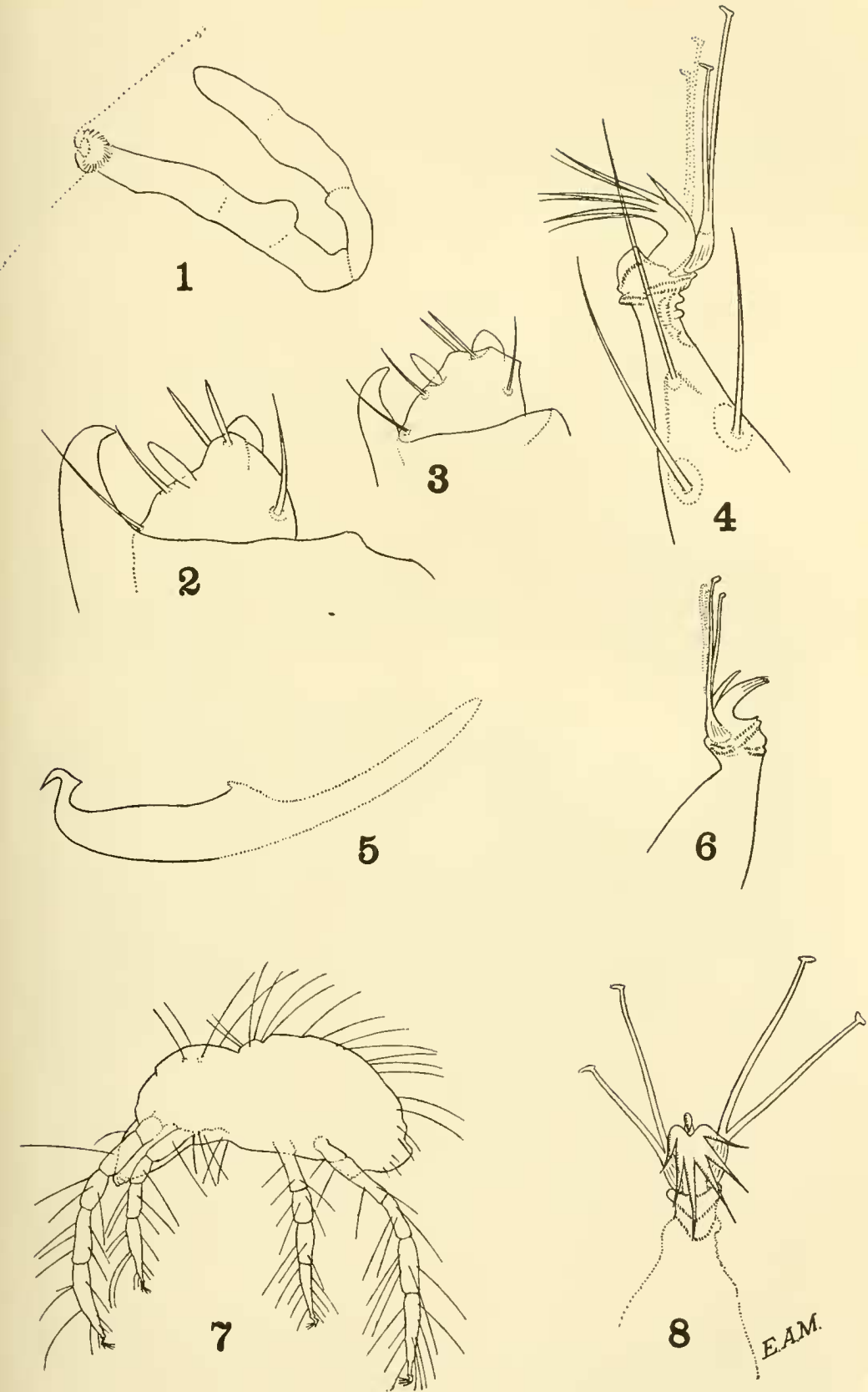
Female.—Body outline rather widely oval. Dorsal armature consisting of 26 conspicuous bristles, distributed about as usual; not arising from tubercles. A single perfect eye cornea on each side. Mandibular plate rounded anteriorly at maturity. “Thumb” of palpus shortened axially, greatest thickness about one-third more than length, bearing terminally a dome-shaped “finger” which is slightly thicker than long; the rather ample dorsal sensilla is nearly twice as long as the terminal “finger”; the other five hairs and digituli of the “thumb” about as usual. Legs rather long, especially first and last pairs. Relative lengths of joints of foreleg as follows: Coxa, 12; trochanter, 7; femur, 18; patella, 10; tibia, 13; tarsus, 20. Tip of tarsus (female) bearing a claw which is sharply bent at a point one-fifth distance from base to tip, at which point arises dorsally a straight spur and ventrally a stronger division which soon splits into six equal, slender, spine-like parts which much exceed in length the dorsal spur. The usual four tenent hairs arise from the onychium, a pair on each side of the claw base. The collar trachea is U-shaped with the arms subequal.

Male.—Body smaller and narrower than that of female. Legs not so conspicuously long as usual. Penis with inner lobe rodlike; basilar lobe inconspicuous; shaft from two to three times as long as its basal thickness, bent upward and backward more than 90° from axis of main shaft, expanding terminally to form the prominent barb whose axial length slightly exceeds the length of the “hook” of the shaft; anterior portion of barb slightly acute-angled; posterior portion of barb bent strongly downward and acuminate, resembling the claw of a hammer. Tarsal claw of legs I and II differing from those of other two pairs of legs and from those of female; distal portion (corresponding to the main claw) rather straight and relatively weak, the proximal portion (analogous to the deflexed spurs in certain genera) much thicker at base and appearing to be split indistinctly into three segments.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Septanychus argentinus

- Fig. 1. Collar trachea, viewed laterally.
 Figs. 2 and 3. Terminal portion of palpus (♀) with appendages; Fig. 3 viewed laterally, Fig. 2 viewed from slightly different angle.
 Fig. 4. Tip of tarsus of female, viewed laterally.
 Fig. 5. Lateral view of penis.
 Fig. 6. Tip of tarsus of leg I of male, viewed laterally.
 Fig. 7. Lateral view of female mite (legs of right side not shown),
 Fig. 8. Tip of tarsus of female, viewed terminally.



E.A.M.

Type slide.—U. S. National Museum No. 1437.

The type material is from Argentina, intercepted at port of New York by E. C. Hodson, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, March 3, 1938, from pear fruits. The species was also intercepted on the S. S. Southern Cross from Argentina on pear fruits, March 11, 1938, by L. J. McConnell, of the same agency.

A NEW ATANUS FROM ARGENTINA, SOUTH AMERICA
(Homoptera-Cicadellidae)

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The following species of leafhopper is suspected of being a vector of a sugar-beet virus disease in South America. Therefore the species is here described to make a name available in this connection.

Atanus exitiosus, new species

Resembling in external appearance *Atanus dentatus* (Obs.) but usually somewhat smaller, not so definitely marked, and with the processes on the male aedeagus arising at the base of the shaft instead of near the apex. Length ♂, 3 mm.; ♀, 3.75 mm.

General color stramineous, often with the head, pronotum, and scutellum deep yellow. Some specimens typically marked as illustrated. Elytra semi-hyaline, veins darker with some indication of darker areas in some specimens.

Genitalia: Last ventral segment of the female about twice as long as the preceding, with the lateral angles broadly rounded to the strongly produced median third, often with a very slight indication of a median notch. Male valve triangular; plates slightly broader at base than valve, roundly narrowed about basal third and tapering to long, sharp apices; styles broad on middle two-thirds, abruptly narrowed on outer fourth to about one-third middle width, apices truncate; aedeagus in dorsoventral view narrow with the sides almost parallel, in lateral view curved dorsally, widest at base, gradually narrowing to sharp apex, with a pair of processes arising near base of shaft on ventral margin, extending parallel with shaft to diverge slightly near their tips and end short of its apex.

Holotype ♂, allotype ♀, 10 ♂♂ and 28 ♀♀ paratypes from Rio Negro Valley, Argentina, January 21–22, 1941, C. W. Bennett. Swept from sugar beets. Types in the Collection of the United States National Museum, Cat. No. 56671.